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Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12

AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

INT-08 GSA-01 OEP-01 STR-08 RSR-01 /145 W
---------- 126306
R 191050 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4103
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9489

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: EMIN TH
SUBJECT: TIN STOCKPILE RELEASE

REF: A. BANGKOK 9247, B. BANGKOK 8967

1. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND INDUSTRY OFFICER MET JUNE 19 WITH THAI MINING ASSOCIATION (TMA) PER INVITATION MENTIONED IN PARA 3, REFERENCE A. COUNSELOR EMPHASIZED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NUMEROUS CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN US AND TIN PRODUCING COUNTRIES PRECEDING JUNE 6 GSA ANNOUNCEMENT; AND DISPOSAL FIGURES INCLUDED IN ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATED CLEARLY USG WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE ON TOTAL AMOUNTS OF TIN TO BE RELEASED. ALSO SOUGHT TO COUNTER CONCERN THAT ENTIRE TIN STOCKPILE MIGHT BE RELEASED IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

2. MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY SPECIAL ADVISOR VIJA SETHAPUT (REF B) WAS ALSO PRESENT AT MEETING IN ROLE OF BCADVISOR" TO TMA. SPEAKING FROM PREPARED NOTES, HE EXPRESSED " RELIEF" AT TOTALS ANNOUNCED BY GSA FOR RELEASE FY 73 AND FIRST HALF OF FY 74, AND STATED HE HAD ASKED
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THE PRIME MINISTER' S OFFICE (REFERRING TO PRESIDENT' S LETTER) TO PUT OUT PRESS RELEASE RESPONDING TO GSA ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT HAD ELICITED NO RESPONSE AS YET. ALSO SAID HE WAS GENUINELY SURPRISED THAT MARKET PRICE HAD RISEN RATHER THAN FALLEN IN RESPONSE TO GSA ANNOUNCEMENT. HOWEVER HE ATTRIBUTED THIS DEVELOPMENT TO PENDING LIQUIDATION AGAINST MAJOR LONDON TIN SMELTER AS WELL AS TO RECENT STRIKE WHICH SHUT DOWN PENANG SMELTERS. NEVERTHELESS, VIJA EXPECTS LONG- RANGE PRICE TREND WILL BE DOWN. CONTENDS THAT CONTINUATION OF THIS TREND WILL CREATE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT SITUATION IN SUCH PRODUCING COUNTRIES AS THAILAND WHERE COST OF LIVING IS ON RISE.

3. VICE PRESIDENT OF LOCAL BRITISH MINERS' ASSOCIATION WHO WAS PRESENT WARNED OF SOCIAL EFFECTS OF TIN RELEASES ON HUNDREDS OF SMALL
MINERS IN SOUTH THAILAND. HE ALSO QUESTIONED EMBOFFS ON EXACT STATUS IN LEGISLATIVE PROCESS OF PROPOSED STOCKPILE ACT OF 1973 AND ITS PROSPECTS FOR ENACTMENT. VIJA SAID GSA HAD ACTUALLY SOLD ONLY 200 TONS THUS FAR OF 1500 TONS PLANNED FOR JUNE, AND ENQUIRED IF EMBOFFS HAD ANY STATISTICS ON SUCH SALES.

4. VIJA CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT GSA ANNOUNCEMENT MADE NO REFERENCE TO FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL OR PRODUCING NATIONS. HE STRONGLY URGED THAT CONSULTATIONS BEGIN IN JULY IN PREPARATION FOR ANY PLANNED JANUARY- JUNE 1974 RELEASES.

5. NATION JUNE 18 ANNOUNCED ABOVE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE (WITHOUT MENTIONING EMBOFFS' PARTICIPATION) AND DESCRIBED ITS PURPOSE TO FIND " A COMMON PRINCIPLE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THE CURRENT PROBLEM WHICH ARISES FROM THE DECISION BY THE USG TO RELEASE TIN FROM ITS STOCKPILE." WORLD JUNE 16 PROMISED " A JOINT STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED FOLLOWING THE END OF THE SESSION."

6. COMMENT. EMBOFFS STRESSED DURING MEETING WHAT THEIR PARTICIPATION WAS ON NOT- FOR- ATTRIBUTION BASIS, AND GSA ANNOUNCEMENT REPRESENTED PUBLIC USG POSITION ON TIN RELEASES. NEVERTHELESS, EXPECT THAT TMA WILL ISSUE PRESS RELEASE ON
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MEETING. HOWEVER, FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT; DIRECTOR OF MINING ASSOCIATION SEEMED GENUINELY APPRECIATIVE OF EMBOFFS' COOPERATION. WAS AGREED THAT INFORMAL CONTACT WOULD BE CONTINUED IN FUTURE ALSO.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY INFO DEP. MIGHT PROVIDE TO RESPOND

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TO QUERIES ABOUT LEGISLATIVE STATUS OF STOCKPILE ACT
WOULD BE HELPFUL. ALSO SUGGEST STATISTICS ON GSA SALES OVER
NEXT SIX MONTHS BE CIRCULATED TO CONCERNED POSTS ON REGULAR
BASIS.
MASTERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO09489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730621/aaaajcuq.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BANGKOK 9247, 73 BANGKOK 8967
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <21-Dec-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980210
Subject: TIN STOCKPILE RELEASE
TAGS: EMIN, TH
To: EB
KUALA LUMPUR
LONDON
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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